clocks, orthopaedic appliances, artificial electronic ear and artificial electronic larynx.

Production cost of crude oil

†*429. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the production cost of curde oil being produced in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, what was the average production cost of crude oil produced in various parts of the country during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(c) the year-wise landed cost of imported crude oil in India during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The reported average operating cost per metric tonne (MT) of domestic crude oil, on "oil and oil equivalent gas" basis, produced during the last three years, 1999—2002, ranges between Rs. 538 to Rs. 963 for 1999-2000, Rs. 496 to Rs. 1,111 for 2000-01 and Rs. 435 (provisional) to Rs. 1,010 (provisional) for 2001-02. However, the average cost of production of crude oil depends on various technical factors, both dynamic and static, the accounting policies followed by any individual company and on the fiscal regime applicable.

(c) Foreign exchange requirement against the crude oil import during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 is as follows:—

Year	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02(RE)
Quantity (Thousand Metric Tonne)	57,805	74,097	80,397

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02(RE)
Value (Rs. Crore) Value	40,028	65,932	67,600
(Million US $)	9,210	14,403	14,188

Note: Value of crude oil imports is on FOB basis except for C&F contracts.

Duty and tax relief on petroleum products

*430. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil companies in India will find it difficult to retain prices of petroleum products at current level in case the increase in crude prices is not offset by duty and tax relief by Government;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to come to rescue of oil companies; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism, the normal fluctuations in the international oil markets would be reflected in the domestic prices of petrol and diesel. However, Government is constantly reviewing the international oil prices, particularly the volatility and its likely impact on the domestic market. As and when Government intervention is considered necessary, appropriate measures will be taken.